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Agenda items 34, 35 and 68

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Promotion and protection of human rights

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Identical letters dated 2 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chair of the Arab Group for the month of May 2017, I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter addressed by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, dated 24 April 2017, regarding the humanitarian situation of the hundreds of Palestinian prisoners who have gone on hunger strikes in Israel's prisons (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 35 and 68, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 2 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you to express my most profound concern about the severe humanitarian situation of the hundreds of Palestinian prisoners who have gone on hunger strike, which is now entering its seventh day, to expose the inhumane conditions of their incarceration and illegal detention by the Israeli Occupying Power.

As you are aware, these Palestinian prisoners have already been subjected to the most brutal, degrading and humiliating of practices while languishing in Israel's prison system, and the Israeli government has only responded to their hunger strike — which is the most peaceful form of resistance available to them — by threatening to inflict even more suffering and to further punish not only those who have gone on hunger strike, but the entire Palestinian prisoner population being incarcerated on so-called security-related grounds in Israeli prisons.

The international community has the responsibility not only to condemn these brutal and blatant violations of international law but to also demand, and ensure, that Israel, the Occupying Power, fully respect its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention. These ruthless practices must no longer be tolerated by the community of civilized nations. I am confident that you will continue to exercise your good offices and urgently intervene to ensure that Israel immediately ceases these indiscriminate and inhumane policies, and that the international community continues to hold the Israeli government accountable, both legally and criminally, for its systematic violation of the human rights of the Palestinian prisoners.

(*Signed*) Ahmed **Aboul Gheit**